■ News / A2
Romulo says RP-US ties tops his agenda at foreign affairs dep't

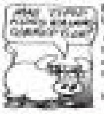
■ News / A2
SC affirms P9.6-B coco levy case against Danding

■ Metro / A18
Due to text, jealous man kills girlfriend, self

■ Entertainment
Keanu Reeves talent fee goes up to P15,000 per shooting day

Still no Olympic gold: Saan tayo nagkulang?

Energy department battlecry: 'EC way of life'



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, August 25, 2004



Meralco to increase rates by 17.37 ¢/kWh

Power hike to start next month



Thousands of youths jampack job fair

GMA: Gov't can pay off its ₱4-trillion debt

Fiscal crisis differs from economic crisis

9 senators agree to reduce pork barrel by 50%

Camacho: The man who said it first



What happened to Argentina in 2001

Second FRONTPAGE

SC affirms graft case vs Danding, JPE

By Philip C. Tubeza

Mending tattered US ties Romulo's priority at DFA



HIGH RENT DISTRICT

Poll machines overpriced—Comelec

Why is Willie V. practically everywhere with GMA?



Mandy Moore: Life is 'pretty boring'



MORE, MANDY: "But I enjoy my quiet, boring life."

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Outside of what I do, I think that my life is really pretty boring," confesses 19-year-old actress-singer Mandy Moore.

Casually dressed in a brown jacket, white blouse, and denim jeans, Moore clarifies that unlike her colleagues Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, "I am pretty quiet."

Moore, in a Beverly Hills Hotel to promote her newest teen-comedy "Saved!," comes across as wholesome and sweet. She seems so naive that co-star Macaulay Culkin ("Home Alone," "Home Alone II: Lost in New York"), who appears as Roland, a smart-mouth, wheelchair-bound brother to her high school senior character, has taught her "how to swear."

Culkin, the former child superstar, reveals with amusement, "We were laughing at Mandy because she couldn't say some of the words we taught her!"

Zealous Catholic

Other stars in the film are Jena Malone ("The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys") as the all-around good girl Mary, and Susan Sarandon's daughter, Eva Amurri, as a punk, outspoken and rebellious friend of the characters of Moore and Malone and who is the only Jew in their school, the American Eagle Christian High School.

Complications begin when Mary's boyfriend (Chad Faust as Dean) tells her that he thinks he is gay. When Jesus—yes, Jesus Christ—appears to Mary in a vision, He tells her to do everything she can to help her boyfriend.

Thinking this means going all the way with him, Mary winds up pregnant. This sends her questioning her faith in God and finds that all her friends have turned against her. Mary is befriended by the school's outcasts and together they all learn something about themselves, find their faith in unexpected places, and what it means to be saved.

Asked if she is a zealous Catholic like her character, Hilary Faye, Moore, who is Catholic, replies that she "wasn't finding any inspiration in Christianity in the beginning, but now I have a strong faith in God."

Moore believes the film is sending out a positive message: "It is about discovering who you are and what you believe in. It's about tolerance, acceptance and diversity."

'Anthem Girl'

Playing the mean girl in the movie instead of her usual good girl roles, Moore was "thrilled and blown away that they chose me for this role. People often see me in one particular light and I was really shocked and surprised to get this call."

Acting as the envious popular girl in director Brian Dannelly's first feature film, Moore recalls that she was never like that in high school because she was "more invisible."

Moore confesses she was "only able to go up to high school for a year. I was quiet and just did my work. I definitely was not in the cool group. But I was not with the outsiders. I was more in between."

Jesus-obsessed

The singer-turned-actress from Orlando, Florida, began her career as the "National Anthem Girl" at Orlando sports events, which landed her a recording contract even before she was able to get her driver's license. Her debut CD, "Candy," quickly reached the top of the charts and reached platinum sales in 2000.

Moore, who quickly crossed the line and began her television career as the Neutrogena spokesperson, also landed her own talk show series, "The Mandy Moore Show," which resumed in the summer of 2001 with a new title, "Mandy."

Making her silver screen debut, Moore played the bitchy cheerleader in "The Princess Diaries" opposite Anne Hathaway and legendary star Julie Andrews. In her 2002 film, "A Walk to Remember," Moore played the good girl in the syrupy teen love story. Another teenage love story, "How to Deal," was released the following year.

'I think it's a little weird when people think they know everything about you, including your personal life, when they don't really have a clue about what's going on inside you'



SINNER AND SAINT. Moore, as a religious girl, with co-stars Jena Malone and former child superstar Macaulay Culkin

In her more recent movie, "Chasing Liberty," an opportunity for a new character for Moore came. She played a rebellious, overprotected First Daughter.

In "Saved!" Moore is the leader of the righteous Christian Jewels group and the official cheerleader for the Lord. According to Moore, her character "is like any other popular girl in high school but instead of being obsessed with boys, shopping, and music, she's obsessed with Jesus."

With controversy surrounding the film's satires on Christianity, Moore feels that "it's not mocking or mean-spirited. I just think it brings a sense of humor to the film. It starts out with some stereotypes but the film allows the viewers to see the reality of the situation of these people. It's just a little over the top but we break the stereotypes."

Blessed, lucky

Moore is hopeful about her movie career and wants to see herself "in something that I can completely throw myself into. Maybe something with a different accent. Just someone who's so far from who I am. I'd like to play someone who I know nothing about."

The vibrant and vivacious Moore feels so "blessed and lucky that I have my family to lean on" when things do not turn out as expected in her personal and professional life.

"I love my friends and the people I work with," she says and adds, "Everybody has his bad days. I do. But I do not let myself be affected by it. It is just a part of life. So I think it's a little weird when people think they know everything about you, including your personal life, when they don't really have a clue about what's going on inside you."

But after several years in the biz, Moore knows better and tries to be not affected by negative stuff. "I enjoy my quiet, boring life," she says with a winsome smile.

'Where everybody knows your name'

SHOW TIME

ORIGINALLY, one of them wanted to be a chef. One wanted to be an architect. Another wanted to be a physical therapist and still another, a pianist. But they've been around together for 11 years—as Truefaith.

Even when they started, Truefaith had always been comfortable playing in places where rock bands ruled, as well as in ritzy hotels where pop-jazz bands reigned.

Now the band performs on Wednesdays at Aruba Bar and Restaurant, "where everybody knows your name."

Vocalist Medwin Marfil and the other members of Truefaith hang out regularly at the bar even when they're not performing, like on Tuesdays when Nyoy Volante sings with the Mannos, and Fridays during the gigs of Jed Maddela, Gail Blanco and Prime Council.

The others in the band are Jake Lumacad, keyboards; Bimbo Yance, bass guitars; Carlo Sison, lead guitars; and Eugene Marfil, rhythm guitars.

Performing on Thursdays is MYMP; and Saturdays, Mocha with Spin Art.

Aruba presents laid-back music on Mondays.

For P250, a guest is entitled to six bottles of local beer and a pica-pica during happy hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m, Monday through Saturday.

Aruba is on the second floor of Plantation Building in Libis, Quezon City. For inquiries, call telefax 637-5101 or e-mail aruba_bar@yahoo.com.

9 senators agree to reduce pork barrel

Sharing the burden

Rich asked to share with poor

By Volt Contreras

Voluntary basis

Paying taxes, etc.

What happened . . .

$40-B IMF bailout

Peso floats

Thousands of youths jampack job fair

[illegible]

Last-minute rush

[illegible]

Major hitch

[illegible]

One-stop shop

[illegible]

Retired soldiers in danger of losing pensions

Rebel group vows revenge

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 441
Series of 2004

Muntinlupa asks Enrile for help against Meralco

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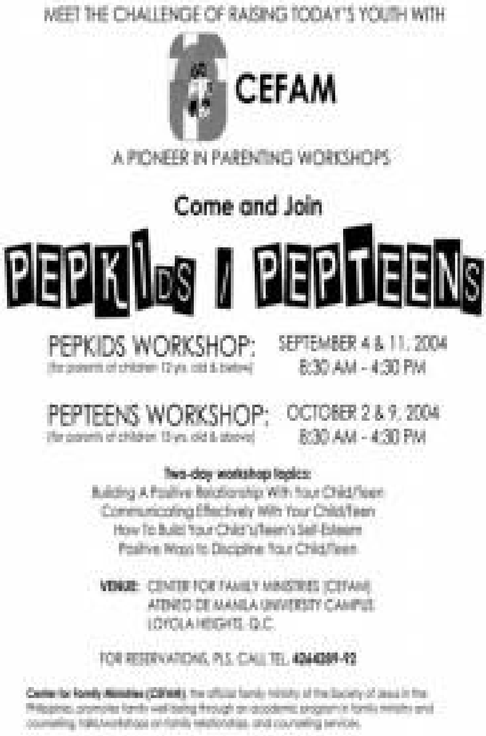














Emergency powers bid backed, bucked

Meralco to increase rates by 17.37 ¢/kWh

Camacho: The man who said it first

GMA: Gov't can pay off its ₱4-trillion debt

Fiscal crisis differs from economic crisis

Energy dep't battlecry: 'EC way of life'

From page A1

Leave your car at home once a week, on top of the number-coding scheme, join a carpool.

- Close shopping malls, gas stations earlier than usual.
- Ban on purchase of new government vehicles; strictly limit these for official use.
- Promote more fuel-efficient vehicles, vehicle maintenance, better driving habits, use of public parking spaces and public transport systems.
- Fast food restos would be asked to print energy saving tips on their placemats.
- People are encouraged to walk around business districts, or use bicycle lanes that would be put up.
- Shopping malls would be asked to put taxi stands to avoid so many cabs driving round and round the malls looking for fares.
- Put energy consumption stickers on vehicles and appliances.
- Deploy "energy audit teams" to help companies and residential subdivisions monitor their energy consumption.
- Reward the prudent use of energy.

These were among the "strategies" of the government's revived "National Energy Conservation Program" which President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled yesterday during a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, composed of officials of the Cabinet and leaders of Congress.

She is expected to discuss the conservation plans in her "Pulong Bayan" or townhall meeting today, which will be aired live by the government NBN station.

Slash oil import bill

The conservation campaign hopes to slash oil importation by 12 percent, Ms Arroyo said in a statement. All government agencies, which import nearly all of their crude oil will be asked to cut fuel and electricity consumption. The country's oil import expenses have been bloated by record high crude prices.

"Let us make energy conservation a way of life," Ms Arroyo said in statement read to Palace reporters by beleaguered Energy Secretary Vince Perez.

In a PowerPoint presentation at the Palace briefing room, Perez showed the Department of Energy's new battle cry: "EC (energy conservation) way of life."

Voluntary for now

Except for the mandatory government energy consumption cut, all the rest would be voluntary at the moment, according to Perez.

"We have not yet crossed the line of mandatory although there are certain discussions that I am having with Chair Bayani Fernando of the MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority). I will not reveal details of the discussion at this point but right now they're all voluntary," Perez said.

He said the DOE would immediately launch a massive information campaign on how to save energy.

Perez said the energy conservation program was a short-term answer to the problem of high oil prices, adding that the long-term solution would be to achieve energy independence by tapping local and renewable sources of energy.

Perez noted that Dubai crude had reached an all-time high of $41 per barrel. He said this was higher than the prices after the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the US-Iraq war in March last year and when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cut production in April 2000.

No gas rationing

Perez, who came under fire from Senate President Franklin Drilon and other lawmakers for failing to prevent escalating oil prices, stressed there won't be any gas rationing schemes.

"Please, that is not part of the agenda. We do not have a supply crisis, we only have an oil price crisis. We're trying to mitigate the impact of high oil prices by pushing energy conservation in the consciousness of every Filipino," Perez said.

"I am calling on the public to throw its full support behind our energy efficiency and conservation program," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the DOE spent the past few weeks working on an enercon program that aims to cushion the impact of rising energy prices, reduce expenditures in fuel and electricity without sacrificing productivity and contribute to the protection of the environment.

Ms Arroyo said the program would result in a 12-percent reduction in oil importation, about 23 million barrels of oil, or an annual foreign exchange savings of $784 million.

"To our environment, it would mean cleaner air as we would have avoided about 5,000 gigagrams of carbon dioxide emissions," Ms Arroyo said.

Leadership by example

"How are we going to do this? Leadership by example," she said. "I am therefore directing a moratorium on the purchase of new government vehicles on all government agencies." She said buying new vehicles only increased fuel usage.

She said this would not compromise government productivity. "Instead, we will strictly implement the trip ticket rule on the use of government vehicles," she said, adding there will be "severe penalties" on unofficial or unapproved use of government vehicles and ambulances.

Gasoline allocation to government motor pools will be strictly monitored, she said.

"I am also directing all agencies to strictly impose the mandatory 10-percent reduction in fuel and electricity consumption," she said.

Perez said the 10-percent reduction would mean annual savings of P400 million. He said the government spent P2 billion for fuel every year and another P2 billion for electricity.

"We are encouraging government offices to turn off their air-conditioning beginning at 4 every afternoon and during lunch break, to reduce their lighting," he said.

For starters, Perez said the lighting fixtures in the Palace briefing room would have to be replaced with more energy-saving ones. He would not say if the huge chandeliers at the Palace would be turned off more often to also save on power.

"But the government could not do it alone. We need the public's support," Ms Arroyo said.

She called on the public to sign up for the DOE's "Carless Day Campaign."

The WORLD

US starts trials of al-Qaida suspects

Nationwide strike cripples Bangladesh



Japan wants permanent seat in UN Security Council

WorldBriefs

US eyes excuse to attack Iran, FM says

Indonesian cleric faces trial

Sudan peace talks to resume

US forces increase pressure on rebels

Surrender or be wiped out

INQUIRER

OPINION



Semantics

EDITORIAL

FVR misses point of Miriam's speech

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Much ado about power

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Belgian beer

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

Philosophy and animal welfare

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Animal rights?

The science of the possible

Where do you get your FP information?

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Economic life in Manila in the 1880s

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Stigma should be on exploiters, not on prostitution victims

LETTERS

Criminals have abdicated their parental rights

Kindergarten lessons for our leaders

Right way to raise Philippine flag

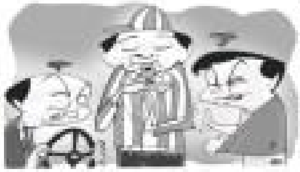
Adopt an official or agency to watch for graft

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Studes teach teeners to get into college

Free tutorials

Courts try mediation to settle cases fast



Pilot courts

How it works

Across the NATION

Board starts North toll hike probe

Zambales fishermen protest fish cages



Suspects in killing of Sarangani radioman surrender to police

Vote-buying mars election for head of councilors' league

Baguio gangs sign pact with police

POSSESSION OF HIGH-POWERED GUNS

Ex-US Marine, 7 others face jail terms

GMA son, execs urge expressway completion

Mayors: Scrap pork barrel



TAPPED

News dealers given OK

Gun shop robbers arrested

Reyes orders 'thorough' probe of Jawo-Yap shootout

Meralco turns off illegally connected streetlights

Bomb cache in Antipolo

METRO

LAST QUARREL

Text message triggers shooting; lovers die

[illegible]

Sai was poorly constructed, says City Hall report

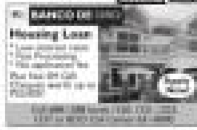
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Tanong ng Bayan

[illegible]

Still no Olympic gold: Saan tayo nagkulang?

[illegible]



SPORTS



[illegible]

Longshot Lerma all set for leap of faith

By Armenio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—With her personal record, she would have been good enough for the gold medal in 1960 and the world record in 1962. But this is Athens 2004 and she will be fighting hard just to stay out of last place.

[illegible]

"Who knows, I might get lucky," said Gabito [illegible]

[illegible]

Taekwondo pairings key to medal hopes

By Armenio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—[illegible]

ATHENS 2004

[illegible]





Knights seek share of lead

Gabito faces tall odds

Taekwondo draw key to medal hopes



Stand by for another RP sports diagnosis

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Malaysians, Thais blow away RP cuppers

SPORTSWATCH

Maamo rules unrated active chess

Burlington-PBA campus tour begins

Kadayawan-inspired football opening

Gamecock Breeder of the Year

Ormoc 5-stag invitational derby set

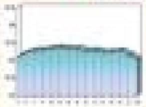
Sanchez shares 3rd in Brazil chessfest

Nazario sweeps Echevarria tourney

BUSINESS

Peso, stocks falter on 'fiscal crisis' woes

CURRENCIES



GOLD: $405.2-405.7

STOCK MARKET



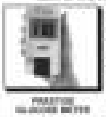
World Bank remains confident on RP



FOREST PROTECTION THROUGH ECOTOURISM

Tighten telco regulations, Pagcor urges NTC





Lepanto strikes gold in new mine site



World Bank ...



Funereal disarrangements

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

Hello from Marcel money

Laying the basis

Heard through the grapevine

Investments still coming, say US, European groups

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HEARING ON OIL ISSUES

DOE chief apologizes to Senate



PEREZ

RP seen to benefit from proposed safeguards on China's textile exports

T-bond rate up over fiscal crisis



RP to spell out trade terms with Japan

Highlands seen to earn ₱1B in condo sale

Disclosures

Peso, stocks falter on 'fiscal crisis' woes

RP failed to reap benefits of previous tax reforms

By Rene G. Bañez

[illegible]

Tax measures

[illegible]

Marcos administration

[illegible]

Incentives

[illegible]

2bU! LIFESTYLE
Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents: Pam Pastor

Change the world, Part 2

This week, we have more stories that inspire. Enjoy the journey into the lives of extraordinary individuals—a girl who was able to reach out to hundreds of people through an innovative way of achieving her dream and a man who spread positivity during his stay in prison.

We also have other examples by which you can make a difference: give a crash course on basketball at a children's shelter, adopt homeless dogs or devote your life to imparting knowledge.

This is only the beginning.

We are looking for more inspiring stories. Have you done something to change your part of the globe? Do you know of any groups or individuals who are making a difference? If you wish to contribute to the Change the World column, e-mail us at Ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph.



Rediscovering idealism

Idealism is not a stage in our lives; it is a way of being and of knowing that what we do in life echoes in eternity

By Catherine Young
Contributor

IDEALISM is what comes before experience; cynicism is what happens afterwards.

There comes a time in every young person's life when he realizes that his vices are shallow. He soon desires for something much more substantial and lasting. He then focuses on a vision much greater than himself.

Our generation's standards are based on achievement, which is not about acquiring wealth, but about making a relevant contribution to mankind. We want to become the next big thing.

This may lead to two kinds of perversions. The first is the downward spiral that adults like to call cynicism. Years of toil and the absence of results deaden the spirit, and people fall into desperation. The second is the disease of imitation, of becoming second-banders and parrots so that one's identity is completely erased.

A teacher asked the difference between fate and destiny. Fate is something beyond our control, I said. But destiny is something we choose. And each of us wants our destiny to be great, or else be forgotten, perhaps the worst fate of all.

All things considered, the best thing to do is simply try. To go forth and attempt to solve even a smidgen of the world's problems, to work doggedly despite the lack of clarity, to push on in spite of frustration and discouragement—these are what we are challenged to do.

Building someone a home, taking care of an unfortunate child, coming to the rescue of an animal—we have to remember that these efforts are not wasted even if they are not always celebrated.

A life, after all, is not measured by a single failure or a solitary success. Idealism is not a stage in our lives, nor is it a passing fancy brought about by raging hormones. Rather, it is a way of being.

We need idealists now more than ever, not just to change the world, but to move it.

E-mail the author at cathy.young1@[illegible]

Vanity of vanities



Here are the best products for clean-skin treatments and evening makeup

Five ways to acne-free skin

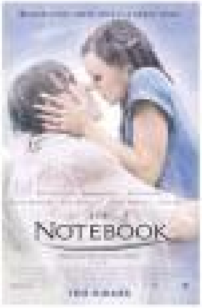


NEUTROGENA Deep Clean

Five ways to turn the heat up after dark



LANCÔME Juicy Tubes



Win tickets to 'The Notebook'



PIA'S friend Charlene asked her to make a bracelet for her sister's birthday. Easy for Pia, who likes making jewelry out of glass and copper wire.

Pia believed in her dream, did something about it and inspired so many people in the process. And she's only 20 years old

Buy this dream



WEAR this good deed around your wrist. Pia's final product.



A NUMBER of pledgers asked Pia to visit an orphanage. She went to Crib with her friend Jonaka and spent the afternoon with the kids.

By Maria Carmina Borromeo Ramos
2BU Correspondent

WHEN Pia Faustino first heard about the 3rd World Youth Festival (with themes centering on cultural diversity, globalization, sustainable development and conditions for peace), she felt like she had to be a part of it.

She recently boarded a plane and went to Barcelona, Spain, and fulfilled her dream. So how did she do it?

Pia approached corporations, institutions, government offices, important people—anyone whom she thought would be able to help her. She needed $1,000 (around P50,000) to cover her airfare and registration fee—and more.

She had to pay for everything before July 30. With less than a month left to raise funds, Pia thought of an idea that has since blossomed into a whole new movement.

Online journal

Using her online journal as a springboard, she put her plan into action. "Will you buy this dream?" She asked her friends, acquaintances and random people passing through her website.

Pia described the World Youth Festival and expressed as best as she could the reasons why she wanted to go. She also outlined everything that she had already done to make her dream of going to Barcelona come true.

And then came the proposition that would jumpstart the movement. She wrote in her online journal: "If you donate P300 to help me get to Barcelona, then I will, in exchange, perform any good deed of your choice. Any good deed that you believe to be worth P300!"

By her calculations, Pia needed 200 people to donate P300 each to come up with P60,000. It seemed like a near impossibility but this was her last shot.

To her surprise, friends and strangers alike supported her. In less than a week, she received more than a hundred pledges. Overwhelmed by the support, Pia decided to take the plunge. She shouldered the remaining amount needed, using her lifetime savings.

She kept track of the good deeds that she had done through another website which she

BUY/ C[illegible]







Shoot that ball and change the world

Teaching kids in a children's shelter the ropes of basketball can be a life-affirming experience

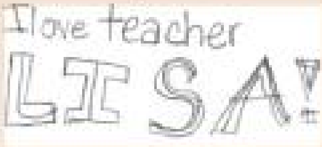




Buy this dream



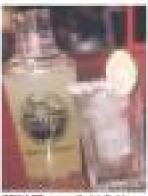
Making a difference with chalk and patience



Yes, teaching is a vocation. Not many are called and willing to work hours beyond 5 p.m. without overtime pay!













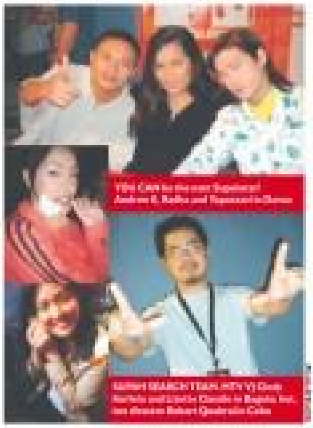

My domestic jet-set life



The Manila auditions for MTV's 'Supahstar' happens this Saturday at SM Megamall, so if you want to be the next Pinoy idol, sing your heart out to me.

Super! Market

From Greece to Greenbelt



Swatch's Sunday dlobang








Sorbet-colored slumber party

